

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In an Office Action mailed February 2, 2004 (Paper No. 7), claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal in view of Mohammed and Johnson. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed and Johnson, and further in view of Goldberg. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, and Johnson as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Gaillard et al. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, and Johnson as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Angle et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, and Johnson as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Odawara et al. Claims 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, and Johnson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pemmaraju. Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, Johnson, and Pemmaraju as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Flynn. Claims 12, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, Johnson, and Pemmaraju as applied to claims 9 and 17 above, and further in view of Goldberg. Claims 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal, Mohammed, Johnson, and Pemmaraju as applied to claims 9 and 17 above, and further in view of Angle. All rejections were made final. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner in a telephone conference on April 30, 2004, that the amendments provided herein would place the claims in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

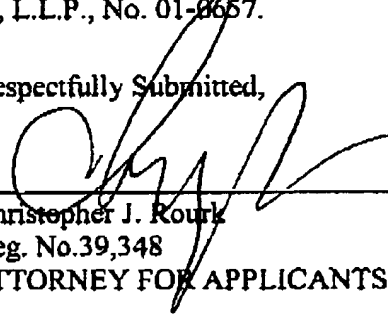
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

- 5 If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, a telephone interview with the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 is hereby requested so that such impediments may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

- 10 A no-fee response to the pending office action was due on May 2, 2004, which fell on a Sunday. As such, this response is timely filed on Monday May 3, 2004. No additional fee is believed to be required with this response. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: May 3, 2004
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